

Wilson Makes Statement Following Unveiling of Revised Affordable Health Care for America Act

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) made the following statement in response to the revised Affordable Health Care for America Act unveiled today:

“I am very excited that after months of debate and hard work, the revised version of the Affordable Health Care for America Act has been unveiled. Since we first began working to reform the health care industry, I have continued to fight for stability and security within our health system, lower health care costs, and affordable insurance for those currently living without coverage.

“After spending months listening to our constituents, my colleagues and I in the House of Representatives came back and created what I believe is a better and more effective bill. In the revised version, key steps have been taken to better protect American families and small businesses while reducing their health care costs. And perhaps most importantly, I am very proud that this bill is paid for in ways that will not hurt middle class families.

“While many provisions of this legislation will take time to set up, there are a number of important changes that will take place as early as next year. Those with pre-existing conditions will have better access to affordable and comprehensive health insurance through temporary insurance pools that will bridge the gap until the Health Care Exchange is set up in 2013. Seniors who rely on the Medicare prescription drug program will benefit from reduced prescription drug costs by closing the Medicare Part D doughnut hole and requiring Medicare to negotiate drug prices with prescription drug makers. And finally, individuals and families who rely on COBRA coverage will see those benefits remain available until the full Exchange is set up in 2013.

“This bill isn’t perfect; and we still have some work to do, but I think we have taken another promising step towards comprehensive health care reform.”